



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Third District

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Fifth District

January 14, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains a pursuit of County-sponsored legislation that will allow the County to develop, acquire and implement a new voting system on a pilot program basis.

Pursuit of Position on County-Sponsored Legislation

In 2009, the Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk (RR/CC) launched the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) to develop a proposal to replace the County's aging voting system. According to the RR/CC, the current voting system's data core is outdated, has limited ballot capacity, and is becoming less reliable. A new system is needed to support the County's 4.8 million voters, more than 5,000 voting places, and to provide voter materials in 12 languages. However, the RR/CC notes that an upgraded system which would meet the County's needs is not readily available. The VSAP process has shown that voters would best be served by the development of a custom designed system which takes these and other key County-specific factors into consideration. RR/CC's timeline calls for a prototype system to be developed and manufactured before Fall of 2015, so that it may be piloted in the November 2015 Uniform District Election Law elections. The Department anticipates full implementation of a State approved system would follow in the November 2016 General Election.

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Under current law, no jurisdiction may purchase or contract for a voting system, in whole or in part, unless it has first received Federal certification. The California Secretary of State has established Federal certification as a prerequisite to obtaining State approval. Under this process, the County would need to first obtain Federal certification (a 28-month process with an average cost of up to \$1 million) and then obtain State approval (a four-month process with estimated costs of as much as \$800,000). According to the RR/CC, proposed legislation that would allow the County to develop and/or acquire a voting system without obtaining Federal certification would provide the County a more expedient and cost effective way to develop, test and implement a new system. If the proposed legislation is enacted, the RR/CC plans to work with the Secretary of State to receive guidance on the requirements for this streamlined approval process.

Therefore, consistent with Board policy to support proposals which allow Los Angeles County to develop and/or acquire a voting system on a pilot basis, **unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the Sacramento advocates will pursue County-sponsored legislation to: 1) allow the County to develop, acquire and implement a new voting system without the requirement of certification from the United States Election Assistance Commission, and 2) implement the system on a pilot program basis under the condition that the proposed voting system is publicly owned.** This legislation would allow the County to more effectively develop, test and implement a replacement voting system by 2016.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:PC:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
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